

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 VENI W. FONOTI,)
12 Plaintiff,) No. C 06-02112 JW (PR)
13 vs.) ORDER OF PARTIAL DISMISSAL
14 JEANNE S. WOODFORD, et al.,) AND OF SERVICE; DIRECTING
15 Defendant(s).) DEFENDANTS TO FILE
16 _____) DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR NOTICE
17) REGARDING SUCH MOTION

18 On July 13, 2007, plaintiff, an inmate at the California Substance Abuse
19 Treatment Facility, filed an amended pro se complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983
20 against various prison officials at Salinas Valley State Prison (“SVSP”) for allegedly
21 depriving plaintiff of his constitutional rights during his confinement at SVSP.
22 Plaintiff was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 in
23 an earlier order (Docket No. 5).

24
25 **DISCUSSION**

26 A. Review Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A

27 A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a
28 prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a

1 governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must
2 identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious,
3 fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a
4 defendant who is immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se
5 pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police
6 Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988). To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983,
7 a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the
8 Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged
9 violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. See West
10 v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

11 B. Legal Claims

12 Having reviewed the complaint, the Court finds cognizable plaintiff's claims:
13 (1) that prison officials retained him in ASU without due process; (2) that placement
14 in the ASU amounted to cruel and unusual punishment because plaintiff is a
15 disabled person; (3) that prison officials conspired to deprive plaintiff of his
16 constitutional rights; and (4) supervisory liability.

17 Plaintiff's allegation that prison officials confiscated plaintiff's personal
18 property, including cash, food items, a Sony Radio, and air mattress, does not state a
19 cognizable claim for relief. Neither the negligent nor intentional deprivation of
20 property states a due process claim under § 1983 if the deprivation was random and
21 unauthorized. See Parratt v. Taylor, 451 U.S. 527, 535-44 (1981) (state employee
22 negligently lost prisoner's hobby kit), overruled in part on other grounds, Daniels v.
23 Williams, 474 U.S. 327, 330-31 (1986); Hudson v. Palmer, 468 U.S. 517, 533
24 (1984) (intentional destruction of inmate's property). The availability of an
25 adequate state post-deprivation remedy, e.g., a state tort action, precludes relief
26 because it provides sufficient procedural due process. See Zinermon v. Burch, 494

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 U.S. 113, 128 (1990). California law provides such an adequate post-deprivation
2 remedy. See Barnett v. Centoni, 31 F.3d 813, 816-17 (9th Cir. 1994) (citing Cal.
3 Gov't Code §§ 810-895).

4

5 **CONCLUSION**

6 For the reasons stated above, the Court orders as follows:

7 1. The clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States
8 Marshal shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the **July 13, 2007**
9 **amended complaint** in this matter, all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order
10 upon **Associate Warden D. Travers, Captain G. Lewis, Lieutenant J. Hughes,**
11 **and Lieutenant T. Billings** at the **Salinas Valley State Prison**. The clerk shall also
12 mail courtesy copies of the **July 13, 2007 amended complaint** and this order to the
13 California Attorney General's Office.

14 2. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this order, defendants
15 shall file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to
16 the claims in the amended complaint found to be cognizable above.

17 a. If defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds
18 plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42
19 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion
20 pursuant to Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003), cert. denied
21 Alameida v. Terhune, 540 U.S. 810 (2003).

22 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by
23 adequate factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the
24 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. **Defendants are advised that summary**
25 **judgment cannot be granted, nor qualified immunity found, if material facts**
26 **are in dispute. If any defendant is of the opinion that this case cannot be**

United States District Court

For the Northern District of California

**resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the Court prior to the date
the summary judgment motion is due.**

3. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the
4 Court and served on defendants no later than **forty-five (45) days** from the date
5 defendants' motion is filed.

6 a. In the event the defendants file an unenumerated motion to
7 dismiss under Rule 12(b), plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:¹

8 The defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule
9 12(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground
you have not exhausted your administrative remedies. The
10 motion will, if granted, result in the dismissal of your case.
When a party you are suing makes a motion to dismiss for
failure to exhaust, and that motion is properly supported by
declarations (or other sworn testimony) and/or documents, you
may not simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you
must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers
11 to interrogatories, or documents, that contradict the facts shown
in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that
you have in fact exhausted your claims. If you do not submit
your own evidence in opposition, the motion to dismiss, if
appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

12 b. In the event defendants file a motion for summary judgment,
13 the Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to plaintiffs:

14 The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by
which they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for
summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

15 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion
for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be
granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact--that is,
if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the
result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment
is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your
case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary
judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other
sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your
complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in

25
26 ¹ The following notice is adapted from the summary judgment notice to be
given to pro se prisoners as set forth in *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th
27 Cir. 1998) (en banc). See *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d at 1120 n.14.

1 declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or
2 authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that
3 contradict the facts shown in the defendants' declarations and
4 documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material
fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in
opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered
against you. If summary judgment is granted in favor of
defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no
trial.

6 See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). Plaintiff is
7 advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Celotex Corp. v.
8 Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment must come
9 forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential
10 element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that failure to file an opposition to
11 defendants' motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a consent by
12 plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against plaintiff
13 without a trial. See Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per
14 curiam); Brydges v. Lewis, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

15 4. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after
16 plaintiff's opposition is filed.

17 5. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is
18 due. No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

19 6. All communications by the plaintiff with the Court must be served on
20 defendants, or defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a
21 true copy of the document to defendants or defendants' counsel.

22 7. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
23 Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or
24 Local Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

25 8. It is plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must
26 keep the court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's
27

1 orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action
2 for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

3 9. Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to
4 be extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

5
6 DATED: October 12, 2007

7
8 JAMES WARE
9 United States District Judge



United States District Court

For the Northern District of California